



December 2006
DOH PUB. #331-302
(Update)

Fact Sheet

Water Use Efficiency Rule

Summary of the Water Use Efficiency Rule

Background

Growing communities, agriculture, industry, and the importance of conserving water for fish have placed an increasing demand on our state's water resources. To help meet these growing needs, the Washington State Legislature passed the Municipal Water Supply - Efficiency Requirements Act of 2003, better known as the Municipal Water Law. The law gives municipal water suppliers certain benefits and obligations. One of their obligations is to comply with the water use efficiency rule.

Water Use Efficiency Rule
Effective Date
January 22, 2007

The water use efficiency rule affects all municipal water suppliers, which includes all Group A community water systems with 15 or more residential connections and some non-community water systems that use water in a residential manner (RCW 90.03.015).

Water Use Efficiency Rule – Key Elements

- Water Use Efficiency Planning Requirements – As part of a water system plan or small water system management program, municipal water suppliers must collect data, forecast demand, evaluate leakage, evaluate rate structures that encourage water use efficiency, and evaluate or implement water use efficiency measures. For more information about this part of the rule, please see the Fact Sheet, *Planning Requirements* (DOH Pub. #331-303).
- Distribution Leakage Standard – Municipal water suppliers must meet a state distribution system leakage standard in order to minimize water loss in the distribution system. For more information about this part of the rule, please see the Fact Sheet, *Distribution Leakage Standard* (DOH Pub. #331-304).
- Water Use Efficiency Goal-Setting and Performance Reporting – Municipal water suppliers must set water use efficiency goals through a public process and report annually on their performance to customers, Department of Health, and also make the information available to the public. For more information about this part of the rule, please see the Fact Sheet, *Goal-Setting and Performance Reporting* (DOH Pub. #331-305).



HELPING TO ENSURE SAFE AND RELIABLE DRINKING WATER

For More Information

If you have any questions about the water use efficiency rule, please contact:

Michael Dexel

Water Resources Policy Lead
Office of Drinking Water
Department of Health
PO Box 47822
Olympia, Washington 98504-7822
Phone: 360-236-3154
Fax: 360-236-2252
E-mail: michael.dexel@doh.wa.gov

Additional information can be found on the Web at:

http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/municipal_water/water_use_efficiency_rule.htm

